

Testimony before the Appropriations Committee

February 23, 2017

Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)

**Governor's H.B. 7027 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE
BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH 2019, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS
THEREFORE**

Alan Coker, Manchester, CT

Good afternoon Senator Osten and Senator Formica, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee.

Hello, my name is Alan Coker and I live in Manchester CT. I have served on the Board of Directors at InterCommunity for past 2 years .In this room tonight, are some people, agencies, who have been and are a major support and influence in my life. Places like InterCommunity, where I still, to this day, receive services for my whole health, my mind and body, Employment Services which has aided me in returning to the workforce again, etc.

If I talk too much blame Advocacy Unlimited and Keep the Promise. Through their training and support today I am a Recovery Support Specialist, and have secured my present employment. I'm very involved with many individuals who need services from DHMAS and places like Connecticut Legal Rights Project and the Regional Mental Health Boards who make sure they are taken care of. The Governor wants 200 million to upgrade the XL Center. Let's stop these foolish cuts to necessary services. Its time to raise and increase funding and upgrade the human mind.

I am just one of the many faces of recovery thanks to services provided by DHMAS. Please, please no more cuts to DHMAS and other organizations that people rely on for their health...

Thanks for listening